CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for automatically processing a representation
    of a multimedia presentation having multiple
5   information streams contained therein, the method
    comprising the steps of:
    (a) matching observed event cues detected within at
         least one information stream of the multimedia
         presentation with a model of expected event cues
10   for a class of presentations to which the
         specific multimedia presentation belongs, the
         model being a finite state automaton having
         states corresponding to segments of the
         presentation class, and having state transitions
15   corresponding to expected event cues, the model
         thereby also specifying an expected time sequence
         of state transitions; and
    (b) determining that the multimedia presentation
         belongs to a particular presentation class based
20   upon the results of matching observed event cues
         with the model of expected event cues.

2. A method as in Claim 1 wherein the expected event cues
    further comprise a class of event cues.

3. A method as in Claim 2 wherein the model further
25 specifies that any given one of a number of event cues
    in a class of event cues may cause a transition

between a given selected state and another selected
state in the model.

4. A method as in Claim 1 wherein the expected event cues
   comprise a plurality of intrastream cues taken from a
5 given information stream.

5. A method as in Claim 1 wherein the expected event cues
   comprise interstream cues taken from more than one
   information stream, and the step of selecting
   presentation segments comprises correlating the
10 interstream event cues.

6. A method as in Claim 1 wherein the expected event cues
   are taken from a text information stream.

7. A method as in Claim 6 wherein the expected event cues
   are closed captioned word cues.

15 8. A method as in Claim 6 wherein the expected event cues
   are closed captioned punctuation cues.

9. A method as in Claim 6 wherein the expected event cues
   are token phrases for the class of multimedia
   presentation.

20 10. A method as in Claim 9 wherein the token phrases
   comprise text strings.

11. A method as in Claim 9 wherein the token phrases
   comprise closed captioned punctuation cues.

12.   A method as in Claim 11 wherein the close captioned
      punctuation cues are selected from the group
      consisting of ">>", ">>>", and ":".

13.   A method as in Claim 9 wherein the token phrases
      comprise a named entity and a text string.

14.   A method as in Claim 13 wherein the token phrases
      include "I'm" followed by a <person> named entity.

15.   A method as in Claim 9 wherein the token phrases
      comprise a named entity and a closed captioned
      punctuation cue.

16.   A method as in Claim 15 wherein the token phrases
      include a <person> named entity followed by a ":".

17.   A method as in Claim 9 wherein the token phrases
      comprise introductory news broadcast terms.

18.   A method as in Claim 17 wherein at least one token
      phrase is selected from the group consisting of "I'm",
      "hello", "welcome", "hello from", "welcome to",
      "thanks for watching", "thanks for joining us", and
      "here on".

19.   A method as in Claim 9 wherein the token phrases
      comprise anchor to reporter hand-off phrases.

20.   A method as in Claim 19 wherein at least one token
      phrase comprises a reporter named entity.

21. A method as in Claim 19 wherein at least one token
     phrase is selected from the group consisting of a
     station identification with a reporter named entity, a
     reporter named entity with the phrase "joins us", and
5   a reporter named entity with the phrase "reports".

22. A method as in Claim 9 wherein the token phrases
     comprise reporter to anchor hand-off phrases.

23. A method as in Claim 22 wherein at least one token
     phrase is selected from the group consisting of a
10   station identification with a reporter named entity, a
     reporter named entity with a located named entity,
     "back to you", and "thank you".

24. A method as in Claim 9 wherein the token phrases
     comprise leaders to highlights of upcoming news
15   stories.

25. A method as in Claim 24 wherein at least one token
     phrase is selected from the group consisting of
     "coming up", "next on", "ahead on", "when" together
     with a station identification and "returns", and "also
20   ahead".

26. A method as in Claim 9 wherein the token phrases
     comprise sign off phrases.

27. A method as in Claim 26 wherein at least one token
     phrase is selected from the group consisting of "that

wraps up", "that is all", "that's all", "that's" together with a news program identification, "thanks for watching", and "thanks for joining us".

28. A method as in Claim 6 wherein the expected event cues 5 are named entities.

29. A method as in Clam 28 wherein the named entities are selected from the group consisting of persons, locations, organizations, times, dates and monetary values.

10 30. A method as in Claim 1 wherein the model of expected event cues is developed from observed event cues occurring in a class of media presentations.

31. A method as in Claim 28 wherein the model of expected event cues is developed by statistical analysis of 15 observed event cues.

32. A method as in Claim 1 wherein the expected event cues are taken from an image information stream.

33. A method as in Claim 32 wherein the expected event cues are selected from the group consisting of black 20 frame, logo frame, single anchor frame, double anchor frame, and reporter frame.

34. A method as in Claim 1 wherein the expected event cues are taken from an audio information stream.

35. A method as in Claim 34 wherein the expected event cues are selected from the group consisting of silence detection, speaker change detection, and jingle detection.

5 36. A method as in Claim 1 wherein the expected event cues are indications of news stories.

37. A method as in Claim 34 wherein the expected event cues are selected from the group consisting of before start of broadcast, start of broadcast, highlight 10 segment, advertising, story start, story end, before end of broadcast, and end of broadcast.

38. A method as in claim 1 wherein the expected event cues comprise a reporter to anchor (R to A) transition.

39. A method as in claim 38 wherein the expected event 15 cues comprise an anchor to reporter (A to R) transition.

40. A method as in claim 1 wherein the class of event cues comprise a *signon* cue class that includes at least cues comprising "hello and welcome" and "hello from" a 20 location.